

## Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 01137

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MARCH 28 MEDIA REACTION

2. NAMIBA. THE MAJORITY OF MAJOR MEDIA CARRIED REPORTS OF CLEMENS KUPUUA DEATH. NYTIMES (BURNS) REPORTED FROM JOHANNESBURG MARCH 27, "THE POLICE SAID THE 55-YEAR-OLD LEADER OF THE HERERO TRIBE HAD BEEN AMBUSHED THIS AFTERNOON BY TWO MEN AS HE APPROACHED A GROCERY STORE THAT HE OWNED IN KATUTURA TOWNSHIP...THE POLICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE BULLETS HAD BEEN FIRED FROM ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO SOVIET-MADE AUTOMATIC PISTOLS. HOWEVER, THE POLICE STATEMENT AVOIDED CALLING THE DEATH A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION." STATING THAT KAPUUA WAS THE THIRD TRIBAL POLITICAL LEADER TO DIE VIOLENTLY IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, BURNS WROTE, "THE POLICE ATTRIBUTED BOTH (OF THE OTHER) DEATHS TO THE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION." BURNS ALSO REPORTS THAT, "TWO WEEKS AGO, SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS SHOWED WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND REPORTERS A DOCUMENT, ATTRIBUTED TO THE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, IN WHICH THE GROUP'S GUERRILLA COMMANDERS HAD MADE PLANS FOR THE 'ELIMINATION' OF 'PROMINENT PUPPETS' OF SOUTH AFRICA IN THE TERRITORY. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIALS CALLED IT A BLUEPRINT FOR POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS." BURNS QUOTES BOTHA SAYING CHIEF KAPUUA, "COMMITTED ALL HIS ENERGIES AND ATTENTION TO THE GOAL OF ACQUIRING INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTH-WEST AFRICA BY PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC MEANS. THIS MADE HIM A TARGET FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO ACQUIRE POLITICAL POWER BY WAY OF FORCE IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA."...WASHPOST (MURPHY) ALSO REPORTING

FROM JOHANNESBURG REPORTED, "CLEMENS KAPUUNO, CHIEF OF THE HERERO PEOPLE AND PRESIDENT OF A MULTIRACIAL POLITICAL PARTY IN SWA (NAMIBIA) WAS ASSASSINATED LAST NIGHT AS HE STOOD TALKING TO FRIENDS OUTSIDE HIS GENERAL STORE... IT IS ALSO EXPECTED TO HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE BLACK GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, SWAPO LEADER SAM NUJOMA IN TO INDEPENDENCE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR." MURPHY MENTIONS THE SWAPO DOCUMENT ON ELIMINATION OF PUPPETS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT RELEASED BUT SAID, "IT WAS ACQUIRED FROM A SWAPO BASE IN ANGOLA WHICH INCLUDED PLANS TO ASSASSINATE NON-SWAPO BLACK LEADERS INSIDE NAMIBIA." MURPHY ADDS, "THERE IS NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, THAT SWAPO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KAPUUNO'S DEATH...DIRK MUDGE SAID HE DID NOT BLAME ANY POLITICAL GROUP FOR THE KILLING...NEVERTHELESS, POLITICAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT KAPUUNO'S KILLING WILL BE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WITHIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHO DO NOT WANT ANY SETTLEMENT THAT INCLUDES SWAPO. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO CALL FOR BREAKING OFF THE TALKS."... AP (AM) FROM WINDHOEK REPORTS, "POLICE FEAR MORE VIOLENCE BETWEEN RIVAL BLACK FACTIONS IN SWA AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF THE MODERATE BLACK PRESIDENT OF THE LEADING MULTIRACIAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT"...IN WASHINGTON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID IT WAS 'SHOCKED AND SADDENED BY SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS ACT OF VIOLENCE'. IT ADDED THAT TERRITORY NEEDS 'ALL ITS LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER'... UNCLASSIFIED

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AP DISPATCHES (PM) REPORT THAT "IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA DENIED HIS ORGANIZATION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING. 'IT IS NOT SWAPO WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING OF PUPPET KAPUUNO, BUT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA WHO WERE RESISTING OPPRESSION,' HE SAID."...UPI (PM) FROM WINDHOEK REPORTS, "HUNDREDS OF ANGRY HERERO TRIBESMEN MOVED THROUGH A TENSE BLACK TOWNSHIP TODAY, SEEKING TO AVENGE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE MAN WHO WAS EXPECTED TO BECOME INDEPENDENT SWA'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT...SCORES OF ARMED POLICE FANNED THROUGH THE BLACK KATUTURA TOWNSHIP TO FORESTALL ANY OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE...SWA POLICE CHIEF BRIG. VICTOR VERSTER SAID THE TOWNSHIP WAS 'TENSE' BUT UNDER CONTROL EARLY TODAY. HIS MEN RESCUED ONE OVAMBO TRIBESMAN WHO WAS DRAGGED FROM HIS CAR BY MOURNING HEREROS...THE HERERO COUNCIL OF CHIEFS MONDAY ACCUSED THE SWAPO OF ORDERING THE ASSASSINATION."

3. RHODESIA. AP (AM) FROM WASHINGTON REPORTS, "THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH GAVE A CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC APPRAISAL EARLIER THIS MONTH OF RHODESIA'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT PLAN, NOW SAYS IT HAS 'SERIOUS INADEQUACIES.'" THE COMMENTS

WERE ATTRIBUTED TO JOHN TRATTNER, WHO GAVE THE PRESS THE REASONS FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT: 1."ALL ACTIONS OF THE NEW FOUR MEMBER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MUST BE BY CONSENSUS, LEAVING SMITH WITH A VETO POWER THAT WILL ENABLE HIM TO PROTECT WHITE INTERESTS. 2.THE SMITH PLAN DOES NOT ALLOW FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITIONAL

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

GOVERNMENT BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR A CEASE FIRE IN THE GUERRILLA WAR, WHICH HAS CLAIMED AN ESTIMATED 9,500 LIVES, FEWER THAN 400 OF THEM WHITE. 3.ELECTIONS CANNOT BE HELD UNTIL SMITH'S WHITE DOMINATED PARLIAMENT APPROVES A NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH HAS YET TO BE DRAFTED. AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WILL NOT ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF ANY ELECTION WHICH HAS SMITH'S STAMP OF APPROVAL." AP SPECULATES, "THE ADMINISTRATION APPARENTLY HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SMITH PLAN AFTER AN INTENSIFICATION OF GUERRILLA FIGHTING IN RHODESIA AND STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE PLAN LAST WEEKEND BY LEADERS FROM FIVE BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS THAT ARE CLOSE NEIGHBORS TO RHODESIA. UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG ATTENDED THE MEETING IN TANZANIA AND WILL REPORT ON IT TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ARRIVES IN NIGERIA ON A STATE VISIT LATER THIS WEEK." ...NYTIMES CARRIES A REUTERS REPORT ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT, "THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT RHODESIA'S INTERNAL AGREEMENT ON MAJORITY RULE WAS ILLEGAL AS WELL AS SERIOUSLY INADE-

QUATE." THIS REPORT IS SIMILAR TO THE AP REPORT IN ITS  
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SPECULATIONS ABOUT WHY THE STAND ON THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN TOUGHENED."...AT. CONST. CARRIES AN OPINION COLUMN BY CARL ROWAN WHICH SUPPORTS THE US AND UK POSITION ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HE WRITES "A HANDFUL OF AMERICAN CONSERVATIVES ARE PUMMELING THE US AND GREAT BRITAIN FOR NOT ENDORSING THE PHONY 'INTERNAL SETTLEMENT' THAT THE IAN SMITH REGIME HAS WORKED OUT WITH THREE SO-CALLED 'MODERATE BLACKS' IN RHODESIA. ONE THING I AM SURE OF: THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND OTHER FREE PEOPLES DO NOT LIE IN THE CURRENT SMITH CHARAGE. IT IS A RECIPE FOR POLITICAL CATASTROPHE IN AFRICA...WE OUGHT TO APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT WESTERN LEADERS ARE FINALLY WAKING UP TO THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY." ...REUTERS FROM SALISBURY CARRIED A REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH AMB. YOUNG THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ZIMBABWE TIMES MARCH 27. THE REPORT SAID AMB. YOUNG SAID THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WAS A "SUICIDE PLAN FOR WESTERN INTERESTS THAT COULD LEAD TO CIVIL WAR AND BRING DOWN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT...MR. YOUNG ALSO POINTED TO A DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH ON THE ISSUE BETWEEN BRITIAN AND THE U.S....' (YOUNG SAID) 'I FRANKLY THINK THAT THE BRITISH PEOPLE WANT TO WASH THEIR HANDS OF THE RHODESIA ISSUE AND ALMOST DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS. THEY WOULD LIKE A QUICK SOLUTION THAT WOULD TURN IT OVER TO SMITH AND THEY WOULD LOOK THE OTHER WAY...WE HAVE SAID THAT WE CANNOT DO THAT, AND THAT TO HAVE RHODESIA GO THROUGH, FOR TWO YEARS EVEN, WHAT ANGOLA HAS GONE THROUGH, WOULD DESTROY ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRIES...THE THING THAT WOULD BE THE MOST DISASTROUS TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE A CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA. IT WOULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN."...NYTIMES CARRIED A HALF PAGE AD SPONSORED BY "CLUB OF TEN" (A GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN FORMED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO  
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WORLD DOUBLE STANDARDS), A LONDON ADDRESS IS GIVEN. THE AD IS HEADLINED "THE GREAT MAJORITY RULE HOAX" BOTH SAM NUJOMA AND JOSHUA NKOMO ARE PICTURED. THE TEXT CARRIES QUOTES FROM THE TWO THAT HIGHLIGHTS THEIR REVOLUTIONARY DOCTRINES. THE QUESTION IS ASKED, "WHAT IS THE WEST WAITING FOR?" THE PREREQUISITES OF THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS FOR RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE OF RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA WERE OUTLINED. THE AD SAID

ALL THE PREREQUISITES HAD BEEN ADDRESSED SATISFACTORILY.  
THE NEXT QUESTION POSED WAS, "WHY HAVE THE US GOVERNMENT  
NOT ACCEPTED THESE CONCEDED PRECEPTS WHICH THEY HAVE  
OSTENSIBLY PRESSED FOR OVER SO LONG A PERIOD? THE AD  
ASKS PEOPLE TO SEND THE PAGE TO THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS  
IN CONGRESS AND INSIST ON AN ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION:  
"WHAT STEPS ARE YOU TAKING TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED  
STATES ADMINISTRATION BACKS MAJORITY NOT MINORITY RULE  
IN THESE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA?"

4. PRESIDENT'S TRIP. UPI FROM LAGOS REPORTS, "PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICA'S STRONGEST ECONOMIC  
AND MILITARY POWER, U.S. AMBASSADOR DONALD EASUM SAYS.  
'I DON'T FORESEE ANY DRAMATIC RESULTS,' EASUM SAID IN AN  
INTERVIEW 'WE HAVE A SOLID BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND  
CAN MOVE ON FROM THERE.'" ...EASUM SAID THE NIGERIAN  
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OF 'GREAT IMPORTANCE' IN THE FRAMING  
OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S AFRICAN POLICY, MOST  
RECENTLY ON THE HORN OF AFRICA."

5. CUBAN/ERITREA. CSM (SOUTHERLAND) REPORTS OUT OF  
WASHINGTON THAT THE CUBANS ARE TURNING UP IN FAIR NUMBERS  
IN THE ERITREA PROVINCE. U.S. ANALYSTS ARE REPORTED TO  
FEEL THAT "SOVIET-SUPPORTED CUBANS WILL NOT JOIN IN AN  
ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA...BUT THEY DO EXPECT THE  
CUBANS TO DO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO HELP THE ETHIOPIAN

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

GOVERNMENT IMPROVE ITS BARGAINING POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE  
DEEPLY ENTRENCHED ERITREAN REBELS." USING INFORMATION  
FROM U.S. OFFICIALS, SOUTHERLAND WROTE, "AND THERE IS

ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION: IF THE CUBANS GOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING IN ERITREA, THEY WOULD BE BATTLING SOME OF THE VERY PEOPLE THEY HAD HELPED TRAIN." SOUTHERLAND CONTINUED, "WHAT DOES SEEM CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE EARLIER 'INDICATIONS' WHICH SOME U.S. OFFICIALS THOUGHT THEY HAD RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIETS THAT CUBAN FORCES IN ETHIOPIA WOULD BE REDUCED ONCE THE SOMALIS WITHDREW FROM THE OGADEN WERE MISLEADING."

6. MIDEAST. AP (AM) TEL AVIV REPORTS THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS EASED ITS STAND ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN SELF DETERMINATION IN THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND THE GAZA STRIP. AP QUOTES FROM THE STATE RADIO BROADCAST OF A PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED THAT SAYS PALESTINIANS "HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN FUTURE." THE DISPATCH SAYS THE PROPOSAL FALLS SHORT OF WHAT SADAT WAS DEMANDING... AP ALSO REPORTS ISRAEL IS ALSO "THINKING ABOUT SENDING DEFENSE MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN TO CAIRO TO TRY TO REVIVE THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT...AP BEIRUT REPORTS, "THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION ACCUSED ISRAEL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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VIOLATING THE CEASE FIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON WITH A DAYBREAK TANK ASSAULT ON THE KARDALI BRIDGE ACROSS THE LITANI RIVER. ISRAEL SAID ITS TROOPS WERE CLEARING MINES ON THE APPROACHES TO THE BRIDGE WHEN GUERRILLAS ON THE HEIGHTS ABOVE OPENED FIRE ON THEM...BALTIMORE SUN (PARKS) REPORTING FROM LEBANON SAID ISRAEL IS HELPING ORGANIZE A "SOUTHERN LEBANESE ARMY" TO PROTECT ITS NORTHERN BORDER AND KEEP PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS OUT OF THE AREA AFTER IT BEGINS TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM THE REGION." PARKS WRITES, "THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, THOUGH SOME TIME OFF, IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE AMBIVALENCE AMONG THE CHRISTIANS WHO FEAR A PALESTINIAN RETURN TO THE REGION AND WANT ISRAELI PROTECTION BUT WHO ALSO WOULD LIKE TO RE-ESTABLISH LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON... BUT THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS DO NO APPEAR TO WANT A RESTORATION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY AND THEY ARE USING THE ISRAELI SWEEP THROUGH THE REGION TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR CONTROL HERE"...WASHPOST (RANDAL) JERUSALEM REPORTS EZER WEIZMEN SAYING "THE ISRAELI ARMY WOULD TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION IF PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS FAILED TO STOP SHELLING NORTHERN ISRAEL WITHIN 48 HOURS." RANDAL WRITES, "WHETHER WEIZMAN'S STATEMENT WAS A MILITARY THREAT OR DESIGNED SOLELY TO CALM ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION WAS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF ISRAEL'S CONCERN AT THE RECENT SURGE IN LONG-RANGE PALESTINIAN ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE." MENTIONING AS A FURTHER COMPLICATION ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN FORMING A SOUTHERN

LEBANESE ARMY RANDAL WRITES, "CRITICS HAVE SAID THE ISRAELI PLAN WAS DESIGNED TO SABOTAGE STATIONING IN THE SOUTH OF UNITS OF THE UNIFIED LEBANESE ARMY, WHICH HAS BEEN RECRUITED FROM CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS IN AN EFFORT TO EASE THE COMMUNAL TENSIONS THAT SPLIT ITS PREDECESSOR IN EARLY 1976." ...NYT REPORTING FROM JERUSALEM REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT WEIZMAN'S REMARKS "I DO NOT WANT THE RESUMPTION OF FIRE BY BOTH SIDES. I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO ABSORB IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AND THEN I DO HOPE IT WILL STOP." WAS A HINT THAT ISRAEL WOULD BREAK ITS SELF-IMPOSED CEASE-FIRE." ALSO ARTICLE SAYS REPORTS ARE THAT ISRAEL MIGHT BE WILLING TO PERMIT SYRIAN FORCES BASED IN LEBANON TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE LITANI RIVER IF THEY WOULD GUARANTEE THAT PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED BACK INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON." ...BOSTON GLOBE EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON BEGIN'S POSITION "THAT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 242 DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM THAT PART OF THE TERRITORY SEIZED DURING THE 1967 WAR," SUGGESTS, "A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL HAVE TO ACCORD THEM (PALESTINIANS) SOME FORM OF SELF GOVERNMENT AT A MINIMUM, AND PROBABLY HOLD OUT THE PROSPECT OF TOTAL SOVEREIGNTY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE...BEGIN'S POSTURE, IF IT IS REALLY HIS LAST WORD ON THE SUBJECT, DOES NOT, UNFORTUNATELY, SEEM TO REFLECT THAT FACT. SOONER OR LATER ISRAEL IS GOING TO HAVE TO MODIFY THAT STAND -- NOT TO SATISFY ARABS OR PALESTINIANS BUT TO FULFILL ITS OWN URGENT NEED FOR PERMANENT PEACE." LEONARD

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